

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct printing errors and translation defects from the publication of the corresponding international application.

Where applicable, the claims have been amended by deleting the term “type”; by replacing the term “sticking” with the equivalent --adhering--; by reciting that the calcining is of --the compressed layer--, as supported in the specification at page 54, line 21; and by deleting the terms “further” and “beforehand”. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, and 12 have each been amended to clarify that the functional film is applied to the article to be furnished with the functional layer, via the adhesive layer side of the functional film. Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the compressed layer is provided on the adhesive layer --by transfer--.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held August 10, 2006, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art, and discussed other issues raised in the Office Action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over either U.S. 2002/0086138 (Iijima) or U.S. 2002/0037399 (Tamai et al), is respectfully traversed.

As Applicant's attorney noted during the above-referenced interview, the presently-claimed invention is disclosed as an improvement over WO 01/87590, which is the WO equivalent of Iijima. See the specification at page 6, line 9ff. Applicant has improved upon his earlier work by employing an adhesive layer comprising at least one acrylic monomer (M) and a silicone resin (S). Applicant has discovered that this combination of adhesive components improves the product disclosed in Iijima. Indeed, Iijima discloses that the adhesive layers in his invention are not particularly limited and that various known adhesives may be used, and lists various adhesives such as an acrylic type adhesive and a silicone type adhesive, among others [0154]. Thus, Iijima recognizes no benefit in combining adhesive components. At best, Iijima discloses the combination of an adhesive composition comprising a polymer resin component (P) which is a solid at ordinary temperature and a curable low molecular weight component (M), which is liquid at ordinary temperatures [0158], and particularly wherein (P) is an acrylic type resin and (M) is an acrylic type monomer [0159]. Iijima's examples also contain such a mixture of (M) and (P). Comparative Example 1 herein is representative of the examples of Iijima. In said Comparative Example 1, the adhesive layer is based on a combination of an acrylic type resin and an acrylic type monomer, but without a silicone type resin. See the specification at page

62, lines 4-16. As described therein, after calcining, the adhesive layer became extinct so that the conductive layer was released from the glass plate. Iijima does not disclose a calcining step, and therefore neither discloses nor suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art the significance of the components of the adhesive layer when calcining is to be carried out.

Tamai et al adds nothing to what is missing from Iijima as discussed above, i.e., it adds nothing further with regard to adhesive layer components, or the significance of calcining. Indeed, Iijima is closer to the present invention than Tamai.

During the above-referenced interview, the Examiner expressed some concern about Claims 9 and 10. However, these claims require calcining which, as discussed above, is not disclosed by the applied prior art.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection would now appear to be moot except for the Examiner's questioning of the term "on". In reply, it is respectfully submitted that this term would be well-understood when taken in context with the description of the invention in the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the trademark terms are capitalized. During the above-referenced interview, the Examiner queried whether the disclosure of the trademarked products *per se* would be sufficient to enable persons skilled in the art to use applicable silicone resins, acrylic monomers, and acrylic resins. Applicant's response is that such adhesives are well-known in the art and one skilled in the art could choose other applicable resins and monomers by noting more than routine experimentation. Thus, to the extent paragraph 1 of the Office Action is intended to state a rejection or an objection, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) containing a copy of JP2001-328193 and a machine translation thereof. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Form PTO 1449 submitted herewith, and include a copy thereof with the next Office communication.

JP2001-328193 (JP '193) does not disclose conducting a transfer. JP '193 discloses, in its Example 5, forming onto a metallic foil base material (1a) a silicone anchor coat layer (1c) using silicone varnish TSR-145, applying fine particles of TiO_2 on said silicone anchor coat layer (1c) and compressing the TiO_2 containing layer to form a compressed layer (2), and then carrying out heat treatment at 300°C for one hour ([0096]-[0098] and [0089]-[0090]).

In JP '193, TiO_2 fine particles are applied onto a silicone anchor coat layer on the metallic foil base material, and then the TiO_2 fine particles containing-layer is compressed. That is, the metallic foil base material is also compressed.

In the case where an object article/support is compressed, the object article/support would be limited to those which can withstand the compression; in other words, articles poor in flexibility such as glass, ceramic or metal cannot be used as the object article/support for the invention of JP '193, wherein the object article is subjected to compression.

In the present invention, on the other hand, the compression layer of functional fine particles, which has been already compressed in advance, is provided onto the object article by transfer. Since the object article of the present invention is not subjected to compression, those poor in flexibility such as glass, ceramic or metal can be used as the object article of the present invention. See page 49, line 22 to page 50, line 8 of the specification herein.

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Reply to Office Action of July 10, 2006

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

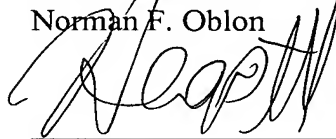
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